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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 19

IMPLICATIONS OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Joint written statement submitted by the Franciscans International and the World Federation of Democratic Youth, non-governmental organizations in consultative status (category I), the African Association of Education for Development, the American Association of Jurists, France Libértés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, the International Federation of Human Rights, the International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, the International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples, Pax Christi International and Pax Romana, non-governmental organizations in consultative status (category II), Centre Europe-Tiers Monde, International Educational Development and Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples, non-governmental organizations on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[22 August 1996]

1. The submitting non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council join to express their deep sense of concern at the events in Chechnya and at the gross violations of human rights which are being inflicted on the Chechen people.

2. It is well known that in the past days the Russian Government has threatened to launch, once again, a massive military assault on the city of Grozny, forcing tens of thousands of civilians to flee the city and endangering their lives and those of the civilians remaining in Grozny.

3. By now it should be abundantly clear that the conflict between the Russian Federation and Chechnya cannot be resolved by force of arms which only results in the prolongation of the war and of the suffering of the population.

4. We applaud the decision taken by the Sub-Commission on 21 August 1996 which shows its alarm at the announcement of the ultimatum by the commander of the Russian forces and calls urgently for an immediate and lasting cessation of hostilities, other acts of violence and violations of human rights in that country.

5. We urge the Chairman and members of the Sub-Commission to convey their concern to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the High Commissioner for Human Rights and to the Government of the Russian Federation at the grave consequences of this situation.

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